

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 SIL-01 LAB-04 OMB-01

AID-05 /077 W

----- 023381

O R 171359Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0841

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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NIAMEY PASS AMBASSADOR GRAHAM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UV

SUBJ: PRESIDENT LAMIZANA ADDRESSES NATION

REF: OUAGA 0176

1. IN A SPECIAL ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON JAN 6, PRESIDENT LAMIZANA ATTEMPTED TO CLARIFY THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION.

2. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE UNIONS AT THE END OF THE YEAR HAD RAISED SEVERAL IMPORTANT ISSUES THAT WERE OF CONCERN TO THE ENTIRE NATION. HE STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD SPARED NO EFFORT TO SEEK A REASONABLE SOLUTION TO ALL OF THE ISSUES RAISED. HE THEN REITERATED THE STEPS THAT HAD BEEN ALREADY TAKEN, SUCH AS REVOKING THE PATRIOTIC TAX; THE JANUARY AND APRIL FIRST SALARY INCREASES AS WELL AS INCREASES IN STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS.

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3. HE CONTINUED THAT OTHER CONCERNS THAT HAD BEEN RAISED WERE OF WIDER CONCERN THAN JUST THE GOVERNMENTAL AND UNION STRUCTURES. THE GOUV WERE AWARE OF THE UNION FEELINGS, BUT IN THE INTEREST OF THE ENTIRE NATION, OTHER OPINIONS SHOULD ALSO BE SOUGHT.

4. BECAUSE OF HIS BELIEF THAT THOSE RUNNING THE NATION MUST BE SENSITIVE TO THE CONCERNS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE GOVERNED, HE INITIATED THE DIALOGUE WITH THE UNIONS. HE TOOK IMMEDIATE ACTION ON THE PROBLEMS WITH WHICH THE UNIONS WERE DIRECTLY CONCERNED. HOWEVER, ON THE POLITICAL ISSUES, HE HAS DECIDED TO CONTACT A WIDER AUDIENCE OF VOLTANS. A CALENDER FOR THESE DISCUSSIONS HAS ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN BE SURE THAT THE ACTION FINALLY TAKEN WILL BE IN THE GREATER INTEREST OF ALL CITIZENS.

5. HE CLOSED BY REMARKING THAT THE STRIKE OF DECEMBER 17 AND 18 WAS MARKED BY A MATURITY AND CAUTION OF THE PEOPLE, IT WAS ALSO MARKED BY THESE SAME FACTORS OF THE ARMY WHICH IDENTIFIES WITH AND EXISTS ONLY TO SERVE THE PEOPLE, THESE FACTORS SERVED TO PREVENT ANY UNPLEASANT INCIDENTS DURING THE STRIKE. HE IS CONFIDENT THAT THIS SENSE OF REASON WILL CONTINUE TO BE EXHIBITED BY THE VOLTAN PEOPLE.

COMMENT: IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER OR NOT PRESIDENT LAMIZANA HAD SEEN THE LATEST TRACT (REFTEL) CIRCULATED BY THE UNIONS PRIOR TO MAKING HIS ADDRESS. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE GENERAL PUBLIC HAD BEEN AWAITING SOME SORT OF STATEMENT FROM THE PRESIDENT. THE L'OBSERVATEUR (OUAGA'S INDEPENDENT DAILY) CARRIED AN EDITORIAL ON JAN 16 DESCRIBING THE SUSPENSE PREVAILING IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY WORD ABOUT THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION. PEOPLE HAD BEEN EXPECTING THE PRESIDENT TO ANNOUNCE A CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT. INSTEAD IN HIS SPEECH, LAMIZANA SEEMS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT. THIS COULD BE AN ATTEMPT ON HIS PART TO BUY TIME FOR ALITTLE WHILE LONGER AS A FINAL FACE SAVING EFFORT FOR THE ARMY BEFORE ANNOUNCING THE INEVITABLE CHANGES.

DUMAS

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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